

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /059 W
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R 221552Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 179
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL KADUNA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 10432

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, NI
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT OF NEWLY ESTABLISHED
NIGERIA LABOR CONGRESS

1. FOLLOWING REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ITS
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, NIGERIA LABOR CONGRESS
(NLC) HAS RECEIVED OFFERS FROM BOTH THE INTERNA-
TIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU)
AND THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU).

2. WFTU CABLED NLC AUGUST 19 WITH AN OFFER OF
25 SCHOLARSHIPS TO TRAIN TRADE UNION EDUCATORS
IN MOSCOW. ICFTU SENT WOGU ANANABA, DIRECTOR OF
THE ICFTU AFRICAN REGIONAL OFFICE, TO
LAGOS ON AUGUST 16 TO DISCUSS WITH NLC LEADERS
THE POSSIBILITY OF ORGANIZING A TRADE UNION
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM. ANANABA TOLD EMBASSY'S
LABOR/POLITICAL ASSISTANT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE
ON AUGUST 20 THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED FOR
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ICFTU TO ORGANIZE AND SUPERVISE A TRADE UNION
EDUCATION SEMINAR IN NIGERIA. ANANABA PROMISED
TO SEND NLC LEADERS AN OUTLINE FOR SUCH A SEMINAR.

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO NLC'S ASSISTANT
GENERAL SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION, CONGRESS LEADER-
SHIP HAS NOT DISCUSSED THE WFTU SCHOLARSHIPS

BUT "WE WILL ACCEPT THEM BECAUSE WE REQUESTED SUCH ASSISTANCE." AN INTERESTING FOOTNOTE TO THE NLC'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE ICFTU PROPOSAL FOR A SEMINAR IS ITS INSISTANCE THAT A NON-AFRICAN FROM ICFTU WOULD NOT BE WELCOME TO EITHER SUPERVISE OR PARTICIPATE. NLC LEADERS WERE ASSURED THAT ANDREW KAILEMBO, A KENYAN, WOULD BE SENT FROM ICFTU HEADQUARTERS TO WORK WITH ANANABA.

4. WHEN POLICIAL/LABOR ASSISTANT ASKED TAIWO WHETHER NLC WAS CONTEMPLATING REQUESTING AFL-CIO OR AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER FOR SIMILAR ASSISTANCE, TAIWO SAID NLC IS ONLY DEALING WITH "EAST AND WEST INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON A GLOBAL BASIS."

5. POLITICAL/LABOR ASSISTANT WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT A FIGHT IS BREWING WITHIN NLC OVER PRESIDENT SUNMONU'S UNILATERALLY SENDING A CANDIDATE AFFILIATED WITH THE BANNED NIGERIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS (NTUC) TO ATTEND A JOURNALISM COURSE IN BUDAPEST IN EARLY JULY. FORMER UNITED LABOR CONGRESS (ULC) MEMBERS ARE PRESSING FOR SUNMONU TO EXPLAIN WHY HE TOOK ACTION WITHOUT CLEARING WITH THE NLC'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE NIGERIA UNION OF JOURNALISTS.
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